

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

The title of the invention is currently amended. Claims 1, 5-8, 12, 14 and 18-21 are currently being amended.

This amendment changes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

Specification

Applicant has amended the title to be clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. The title has been amended to read as follows: "IMAGE FORMING SYSTEM FOR TANDEM PRINTING AND USER NOTIFICATION"

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

In the Office Action, claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Office Action states that the limitation "a tandem print job" is not defined.

Applicant respectfully disagrees and submits that the limitation "tandem print job" is described in the specification. A tandem print job is described at least on page 1, lines 7-21 of the specification. For example, page 1, lines 7-15 of the specification states, "[a] process of executing one print job using a plurality of image forming apparatuses is called tandem printing." (emphasis added). A "[t]andem printing job is intended to execute a print job at high speed, based on its use in a network to which a plurality of image forming apparatuses are connected. Tandem printing is achieved by a controller for controlling an operation state of the entire image forming system or an image forming apparatus serving as a master unit." Thus, a tandem print job is a print job that uses a plurality of image forming apparatuses to complete a print job.

Further, the difference between a “regular” or single print job and a tandem print job is highlighted at least on page 7 of the specification. Page 7, line 9 states, “[i]n a single print job, one print job is executed by any one of the output units of the image forming system. In a tandem print job, one print job is distributed to the plurality of output units to complete the one print job.” (emphasis added). Thus, a single print job uses one image forming apparatus to complete a print job while a tandem print job uses a plurality of image forming apparatuses to complete a print job.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the limitation “tandem print job” is defined in the specification. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn and claims 1-20 be allowed.

Claim Objections

Claims 19-21 were objected to for informalities. In response, to correct the informalities stated in the Office Action, Applicant amends claims 19-21. Method claims 19-21 are currently amended to be dependent upon independent method claim 18. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn and claims 19-21 be allowed.

Conclusion

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-21 are now pending in this application. Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of

papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R.
§1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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